



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Raised Bill No. 7275

LCO No. 4804

04804____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FACE OF CONNECTICUT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Office of Policy and
2 Management, in consultation with regional planning organizations,
3 shall, within available appropriations, establish a "State Responsible
4 Growth Planning Grant Program" to promote and encourage
5 responsible growth planning.
- 6 (b) There is established the state responsible growth account, which
7 shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund and
8 shall contain any moneys required to be deposited by law for the
9 purpose of funding the grant program established under subsection (a)
10 of this section.
- 11 (c) The Office of Policy and Management may adopt regulations, in
12 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes.
13 Such regulations shall establish requirements for applications and
14 criteria to be used in awarding grants under this section.
- 15 Sec. 2. Section 4d-90 of the general statutes is repealed and the

16 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

17 (a) There is established a Geospatial Information Systems Council
18 consisting of the following members, or their designees: (1) The
19 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management; (2) the
20 Commissioners of Environmental Protection, Economic and
21 Community Development, Transportation, Public Safety, Public
22 Health, Public Works, Agriculture, Emergency Management and
23 Homeland Security and Social Services; (3) the Chief Information
24 Officer of the Department of Information Technology; (4) the
25 Chancellor of the Connecticut State University system; (5) the
26 president of The University of Connecticut; (6) the Executive Director
27 of the Connecticut Siting Council; (7) one member who is a user of
28 geospatial information systems appointed by the president pro
29 tempore of the Senate representing a municipality with a population of
30 more than sixty thousand; (8) one member who is a user of geospatial
31 information systems appointed by the minority leader of the Senate
32 representing a regional planning agency; (9) one member who is a user
33 of geospatial information systems appointed by the Governor
34 representing a municipality with a population of less than sixty
35 thousand but more than thirty thousand; (10) one member who is a
36 user of geospatial information systems appointed by the speaker of the
37 House of Representatives representing a municipality with a
38 population of less than thirty thousand; (11) one member appointed by
39 the minority leader of the House of Representatives who is a user of
40 geospatial information systems; (12) the chairperson of the Public
41 Utility Control Authority; (13) the Adjutant General of the Military
42 Department; and (14) any other persons the council deems necessary
43 appointed by the council. The Governor shall select the chairperson
44 from among the members. The chairperson shall administer the affairs
45 of the council. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the
46 authority making the appointment. Members shall receive no
47 compensation for their services on said council, but shall be
48 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
49 their duties. Said council shall hold one meeting each month and such

50 additional meetings as may be prescribed by council rules. In addition,
51 special meetings may be called by the chairperson or by any three
52 members upon delivery of forty-eight hours written notice to each
53 member.

54 (b) The council, within available appropriations, shall coordinate a
55 uniform geospatial information system capacity for municipalities,
56 regional planning agencies, the state and others, as needed, which
57 shall include the creation of a map of the state of Connecticut in
58 graphic or electronic form and provisions for (1) creation, maintenance
59 and dissemination of geographic information or imagery that may be
60 used to (A) precisely identify certain locations or areas, or (B) create
61 maps or information profiles in graphic or electronic form about
62 particular locations or areas, and (2) promotion of a forum in which
63 geospatial information may be centralized and distributed. In
64 establishing such capacity, the council shall consult with
65 municipalities, regional planning agencies, state agencies and other
66 users of geospatial information system technology. The purpose of any
67 such system shall be to provide guidance or assistance to municipal
68 and state officials in the areas of land use planning, transportation,
69 economic development, environmental, cultural and natural resources
70 management, the delivery of public services and other areas, as
71 necessary.

72 (c) The council may apply for federal grants and may accept and
73 expend such grants on behalf of the state through the Office of Policy
74 and Management.

75 (d) The council, within available appropriations, shall administer a
76 program of technical assistance to municipalities and regional
77 planning agencies to develop geospatial information systems and shall
78 periodically recommend improvements to the geospatial information
79 system provided for in subsection (b) of this section.

80 (e) On or before January 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, the council
81 shall submit, in accordance with section 11-4a, a report on activities

82 under this section to the joint standing committee of the General
83 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and
84 development.

85 Sec. 3. Section 22-26hh of the general statutes is repealed and the
86 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

87 The State Bond Commission shall have power, from time to time, to
88 authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in [one or more] a lump
89 sum or in a series and in principal amounts not exceeding in the
90 aggregate [one hundred seven million seven hundred fifty thousand]
91 two hundred million dollars, the proceeds of which shall be used for
92 the purposes of section 22-26cc, provided not more than [ten] twenty
93 million dollars of said authorization shall be effective July 1, [2006]
94 2007, and further provided not more than two million dollars shall be
95 used for the purposes of section 22-26jj. All provisions of section 3-20,
96 or the exercise of any right or power granted thereby which are not
97 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
98 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
99 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
100 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
101 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
102 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
103 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
104 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
105 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
106 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
107 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization, which is
108 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
109 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
110 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
111 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
112 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
113 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
114 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of

115 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
116 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the
117 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
118 due.

119 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 7-131e of the general statutes is
120 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
121 *1, 2007*):

122 (a) Grant award decisions under the protected open space and
123 watershed land acquisition grant program established under section
124 7-131d or under the Charter Oak open space grant program
125 established under section 7-131t shall be made by the Commissioner of
126 Environmental Protection at least semiannually. All complete and
127 eligible grant applications shall be acted upon by the commissioner as
128 soon as practicable. A single project may receive a grant in more than
129 one grant cycle, subject to future availability of funds and subject to
130 the limitations set forth in this section and sections 23-78, 12-498 and
131 7-131d. Up to [two] five per cent of the grant funds may be used for
132 administrative expenses including, but not limited to: (1) Contractors
133 to assist the Department of Environmental Protection in the review
134 and evaluation of grant proposals and baseline data collection for
135 conservation easements; (2) appraisals or appraisal reviews; and (3)
136 preparation of legal and other documents. Administrative expenses
137 may not be used for staff salaries. Not later than September 1, 1998, for
138 the protected open space and watershed land acquisition grant
139 program established under section 7-131d, and not later than
140 September 1, 2000, for the Charter Oak open space grant program
141 account established under section 7-131t, the commissioner shall
142 develop written guidelines and a ranking system for consistency and
143 equity in the distribution of grant awards under the protected open
144 space and watershed land acquisition grant program established under
145 section 7-131d or under the Charter Oak open space grant program
146 account established under section 7-131t based on the criteria listed in
147 subsections (b) and (c) of section 7-131d. Consistent with such criteria,

148 additional consideration shall be given to: (A) Protection of lands
149 adjacent to and complementary to adjacent protected open space land
150 or class I or class II water company lands; (B) equitable geographic
151 distribution of the grants; (C) proximity of a property to urban areas
152 with growth and development pressures or to areas with open space
153 deficiencies and underserved populations; (D) protection of land
154 particularly vulnerable to development incompatible with its natural
155 resource values including the protection of a public water supply
156 source; (E) consistency with the state's plan of conservation and
157 development; (F) multiple protection elements, such as water quality
158 and supply protection, scenic preservation and farmland preservation;
159 (G) the extent to which the presence of already constructed buildings
160 or other manmade improvements diminish or overshadow the natural
161 resource value of a proposed acquisition, or its value relative to its
162 cost; and (H) preservation of forest lands and bodies of water which
163 naturally absorb significant amounts of carbon dioxide.

164 Sec. 5. Section 7-131g of the general statutes is repealed and the
165 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

166 (a) Subject to the provisions of sections 7-131d to 7-131k, inclusive,
167 the Commissioner of Environmental Protection may (1) where a
168 federal grant is also made, approve grants to municipalities in an
169 amount not to exceed one-half of the nonfederal share of open space
170 land acquisition or development costs, (2) where a federal
171 rehabilitation or innovation grant is made to a municipality under the
172 Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-625, 92 Stat.
173 3538), approve a grant to such municipality not to exceed fifteen per
174 cent of the total project cost of such development or rehabilitation and
175 (3) where a federal grant is not made, may approve grants to
176 municipalities in accordance with the provisions of this section.

177 (b) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection may make
178 grants under the open space and watershed land acquisition program
179 to: (1) Municipalities for acquisition of land for open space under

180 subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of section 7-131d in
181 an amount not to exceed [fifty] sixty-five per cent of the fair market
182 value of a parcel of land or interest in land proposed to be acquired; (2)
183 municipalities for acquisition of land for class I and class II water
184 supply protection under subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of said
185 section 7-131d, in an amount not to exceed sixty-five per cent of such
186 value; (3) nonprofit land conservation organizations for acquisition of
187 land for open space or watershed protection under subdivisions (1) to
188 (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of said section 7-131d, in an amount not
189 to exceed [fifty] sixty-five per cent of such value; (4) water companies
190 for acquisition of land under subdivision (7) of subsection (b) of said
191 section 7-131d, in an amount not to exceed forty per cent of such value
192 provided if such a company proposes in a grant application that it
193 intends to allow access to such land for recreational uses, such
194 company shall seek approval of the Commissioner of Public Health for
195 such access; and (5) distressed municipalities or targeted investment
196 communities, as defined in section 32-9p, or, with the approval of the
197 chief elected official or governing legislative body of such a
198 municipality or community, to a nonprofit land conservation
199 organization, for acquisition of land within that municipality or
200 community, for open space under subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, of
201 subsection (b) of said section 7-131d, in an amount not to exceed [sixty-
202 five] seventy-five per cent of such value or for performance of work in
203 the restoration, enhancement or protection of resources in an amount
204 not to exceed fifty per cent of the cost of such work. Applicants for
205 grants under the program shall provide a copy of the application to the
206 chairperson of the review board established under section 7-131e, as
207 amended by this act. The board shall provide comments to the
208 commissioner on pending applications as it deems necessary.

209 (c) For purposes of this subsection, the fair market value of land or
210 interest in land shall be determined by one or more appraisals
211 satisfactory to the commissioner and shall not include incidental costs,
212 including, but not limited to, surveying, development or closing costs.
213 The commissioner may consider a portion of the fair market value of a

214 donation of land by an entity receiving a grant as a portion of the
215 matching funds required under this subsection. No other funds made
216 available by the state may be used by a potential grantee as matching
217 funds under the program.

218 (d) To the extent there is a balance of bonds authorized but not
219 allocated by the State Bond Commission on or after July 1, 1998,
220 pursuant to any bond act for the purposes of (1) the recreation and
221 natural heritage trust program established under sections 23-73 to 23-
222 79, inclusive, and (2) the municipal open space grant program
223 established under sections 7-131c to 7-131g, inclusive, the State Bond
224 Commission shall authorize the issuance of such balance only for the
225 purposes described in section 23-74 and sections 23-75 and 7-131d and
226 in two substantially equal installments one in each half of the fiscal
227 year commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999.

228 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) For the purposes described in
229 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
230 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
231 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
232 the aggregate two hundred forty million dollars.

233 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
234 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
235 Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of funding
236 the protected open space and watershed land acquisition grant
237 program established under section 7-131d of the general statutes.

238 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
239 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
240 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
241 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
242 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
243 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
244 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
245 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not

246 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
247 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
248 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
249 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
250 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
251 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
252 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
253 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
254 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
255 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
256 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
257 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
258 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
259 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
260 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
261 due.

262 Sec. 7. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) For the purposes described in
263 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
264 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
265 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
266 the aggregate one hundred eighty million dollars.

267 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
268 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
269 Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of funding
270 the Connecticut recreation and natural heritage trust program created
271 by sections 23-74 to 23-80, inclusive, of the general statutes.

272 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
273 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
274 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
275 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
276 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
277 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized

278 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
279 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
280 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
281 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
282 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
283 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
284 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
285 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
286 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
287 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
288 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
289 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
290 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
291 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
292 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
293 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
294 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
295 due.

296 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Connecticut Housing
297 Finance Authority shall administer, in consultation with the
298 Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, established
299 pursuant to section 10-392 of the general statutes, and the Connecticut
300 Trust for Historic Preservation, established pursuant to special act 75-
301 93, a grant program to fund city and village restoration programs,
302 including, but not limited to, the rehabilitation of historic urban
303 neighborhoods and stimulation of affordable housing and mixed use
304 development in historic buildings. Such grants shall be awarded prior
305 to the commencement of any development for the purposes of site
306 assembly and brownfields remediation.

307 (b) There is established the historic cities and villages account which
308 shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. Such
309 account shall contain any moneys required to be deposited by law and
310 shall be used to fund the grant program established in subsection (a) of

311 this section.

312 (c) In each fiscal year that there are funds available in the historic
313 cities and villages account, the Connecticut Commission on Culture
314 and Tourism, established pursuant to section 10-392 of the general
315 statutes, in consultation with the Connecticut Trust for Historic
316 Preservation, established pursuant to special act 75-93, shall administer
317 a matching grant program to fund the planning and restoration of
318 historic municipal buildings.

319 Sec. 9. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) For the purposes described in
320 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
321 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
322 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
323 the aggregate one hundred forty million dollars.

324 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
325 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be deposited in the
326 historic cities and villages account established under section 8 of this
327 act for the purpose of funding the programs specified in section 8 of
328 this act.

329 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
330 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
331 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
332 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
333 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
334 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
335 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
336 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
337 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
338 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
339 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
340 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
341 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
342 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and

343 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
344 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
345 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
346 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
347 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
348 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
349 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
350 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
351 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
352 due.

353 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Connecticut Trust for
354 Historic Preservation, established pursuant to special act 75-93, shall
355 administer a matching grants program to fund community efforts to
356 plan for preservation, identify and evaluate historic resources and
357 register properties on the state or national Register of Historic Places.

358 (b) There is established the historic registration account, which shall
359 be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. Such
360 account shall contain any moneys required to be deposited by law and
361 shall be used to fund the matching grant program established in
362 subsection (a) of this section.

363 Sec. 11. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) For the purposes described in
364 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
365 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
366 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
367 the aggregate ten million dollars.

368 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
369 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be deposited in the
370 historic registration account established under section 10 of this act, for
371 the purpose of funding the matching grant program established under
372 section 10 of this act.

373 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the

374 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
375 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
376 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
377 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
378 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
379 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
380 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
381 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
382 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
383 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
384 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
385 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
386 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
387 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
388 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
389 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
390 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
391 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
392 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
393 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
394 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
395 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
396 due.

397 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Connecticut
398 Commission on Culture and Tourism, established pursuant to section
399 10-392 of the general statutes, in consultation with the Connecticut
400 Trust for Historic Preservation, established pursuant to special act 75-
401 93, shall administer a matching grant program to fund the preservation
402 of historic landscapes and buildings, including, but not limited to:
403 Barns and other farm buildings, scenic roads, town greens, stone walls,
404 archeological sites, cemeteries, estates or formal gardens. Such funds
405 shall be used for easement acquisition, structural assessments,
406 feasibility studies and restoration.

407 (b) There is established the historic landscape account, which shall
408 be a separate nonlapsing account within the General Fund. Such
409 account shall contain any moneys required to be deposited by law and
410 shall be used to fund the matching grant program established in
411 subsection (a) of this section.

412 Sec. 13. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) For the purposes described in
413 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
414 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
415 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
416 the aggregate fifty million dollars.

417 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
418 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be deposited in the
419 historic landscape account established in section 12 of this act for the
420 purpose of funding the matching grant program established in section
421 12 of this act.

422 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
423 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
424 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
425 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
426 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
427 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
428 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
429 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
430 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
431 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
432 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
433 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
434 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
435 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
436 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
437 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
438 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and

439 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
440 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
441 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
442 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
443 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
444 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
445 due.

446 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
447 Agriculture shall convene a Best Management Practices Committee
448 that shall consist of representatives of: The Department of Agriculture,
449 the Department of Environmental Protection, The University of
450 Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service, the Connecticut
451 Agricultural Experiment Station and the United States Department of
452 Agriculture. The committee shall review currently utilized and
453 accepted best management practices, nutrient management plans and
454 integrated pest management, make recommendations to enhance the
455 environmental quality of farms, and submit such recommendations, in
456 accordance with the provisions of 11-41 of the general statutes, to the
457 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance
458 of matters relating to the environment. The committee shall establish
459 cost-sharing funding levels for best management practices that the
460 Commissioner of Agriculture shall administer.

461 (b) The Commissioner of Agriculture may provide cost-sharing or
462 matching grant moneys for any federal funding allocated for a similar
463 purpose, with funds available through bond authorization pursuant to
464 section 15 of this act, to assist and promote best management practices.
465 For purposes of this section, "cost-sharing or matching grant moneys"
466 means all contributions, including cash and third party in-kind
467 donations that are approved by the commissioner.

468 Sec. 15. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) For the purposes described in
469 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
470 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the

471 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
472 the aggregate ninety million dollars.

473 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
474 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
475 Department of Agriculture for the purpose of carrying out the
476 provisions of section 14 of this act.

477 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
478 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
479 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
480 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
481 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
482 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
483 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
484 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
485 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
486 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
487 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
488 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
489 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
490 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
491 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
492 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
493 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
494 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
495 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
496 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
497 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
498 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
499 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
500 due.

501 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Department of
502 Environmental Protection shall administer, within available

503 appropriations, a community stewardship grant program to provide
504 individual grants of not more than thirty thousand dollars to
505 municipalities and land trusts for stewardship programs including, but
506 not limited to, the development of public access on preserved land and
507 the control of invasive plant species.

508 (b) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection may adopt
509 regulations, in accordance with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to
510 carry out the provisions of this section. Such regulations shall establish
511 requirements for applications and criteria to be used in awarding
512 grants under this section.

513 Sec. 17. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) For the purposes described in
514 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
515 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
516 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
517 the aggregate ten million dollars.

518 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
519 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
520 Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of funding
521 the community stewardship grant program established in section 16 of
522 this act.

523 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
524 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
525 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
526 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
527 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
528 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
529 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
530 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
531 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
532 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
533 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
534 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that

535 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
536 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
537 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
538 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
539 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
540 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
541 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
542 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
543 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
544 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
545 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
546 due.

547 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) There is established the
548 Long Island stewardship account, a separate, nonlapsing account
549 within the Long Island Sound account. The account may receive any
550 funds required by law to be deposited into the account. The
551 Commissioner of Environmental Protection may receive private
552 donations and funds from the federal government for deposit in the
553 account.

554 (b) All moneys deposited in the account shall be used by the
555 Commissioner of Environmental Protection for the provision of grants
556 to restore access and habitats along the coast.

557 Sec. 19. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) For the purposes described in
558 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
559 the power, from time to time, to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
560 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
561 the aggregate thirty-five million dollars.

562 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
563 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
564 Department of Environmental Protection for the purpose of funding
565 the grant program established in section 18 of this act.

566 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
567 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
568 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
569 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
570 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
571 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
572 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
573 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
574 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
575 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
576 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
577 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
578 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
579 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
580 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
581 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
582 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
583 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
584 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
585 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
586 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
587 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
588 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
589 due.

590 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The Department of
591 Environmental Protection shall provide matching grants, within
592 available appropriations, to assist land trusts to improve
593 organizational development and land protection, as well as to support
594 education and innovative strategies for land protection.

595 Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) A municipality may repay its
596 portion of a state matching grant for the preservation of farm land or
597 open space land in equal installments during the ten-year period after
598 the grant is made. If the grant is repaid in five years or less, no interest

599 on such grant shall be charged to the municipality. The interest rate
600 during the final four years of payment shall be the prime rate in effect
601 for the first day of the month such payment is due, minus one per cent.

602 Sec. 22. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of one million one hundred
603 fifty thousand dollars is appropriated to the state responsible growth
604 account established in section 1 of this act, from the General Fund, for
605 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for the State Responsible Growth
606 Planning Grant Program established in section 1 of this act.

607 Sec. 23. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of one million one hundred
608 fifty thousand dollars is appropriated to the state responsible growth
609 account established in section 1 of this act, from the General Fund, for
610 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for the State Responsible Growth
611 Planning Grant Program established in section 1 of this act.

612 Sec. 24. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of two million dollars is
613 appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management, from the
614 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for a grant to the
615 Geospatial Information Systems Council.

616 Sec. 25. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of two million dollars is
617 appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management, from the
618 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for a grant to the
619 Geospatial Information Systems Council.

620 Sec. 26. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of one million one hundred
621 twenty-five thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of
622 Environmental Protection, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year
623 ending June 30, 2008, for the hiring of five additional state forest land
624 managers and additional state parks staff.

625 Sec. 27. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of one million one hundred
626 twenty-five thousand dollars is appropriated to the Department of
627 Environmental Protection, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year
628 ending June 30, 2009, for the hiring of five additional state forest land

629 managers and additional state parks staff.

630 Sec. 28. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of sixty thousand dollars is
 631 appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection, from the
 632 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for the matching
 633 grants program established in section 20 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	4d-90
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22-26hh
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	7-131e(a)
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	7-131g
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 22	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 23	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 24	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 25	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 27	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 28	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To protect the health and economic well-being of Connecticut's communities by assisting our municipalities in restoring and preserving the natural, agricultural and historic resources that constitute the face of Connecticut.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]